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# COUNTRY FACT SHEET

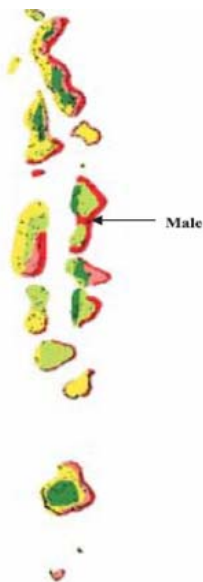
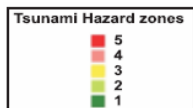
## Maldives



Low-lying islands of the Maldives make the country particularly vulnerable to sea-level changes.

### Tsunami Impacts

The Maldives was severely affected by the 2004 tsunami. Tidal waves ranging from 1.2 to 4.2 meters swept across most parts of the country. Out of the 198 inhabited islands, 13 were rendered not habitable, 56 sustained major physical damage, and 121 were impacted by moderate damage due to flooding. Over 100 people were killed and more than 6000 homes were either destroyed or severely damaged. Tourism, fisheries, and agriculture, which together comprise more than half of gross domestic product (GDP) were the hardest hit sectors (UNDP-RMSI: 2006).



The Maldives Islands and the tsunami hazard zones.

### US IOTWS Program Activities in Maldives

Through a collaborative effort of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and leading technical agencies of the U.S. Government, the US Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) Program is implementing a number of activities in the five countries most affected by the December 2004 tsunami disaster, including the Maldives. The goal of the program is to support international efforts of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) to establish an operational end-to-end regional tsunami/multi-hazard warning system. Some selected activities include the following:

#### Improving Tsunami and Earthquake Detection, Forecasting and Warning

- Technical support to upgrade the Global Telecommunications System (GTS) of the National Meteorological Centre (NMC) of Maldives to receive and process tsunami watches and warnings and share information among nations with tsunami detection instruments and systems.
- Technical training on seismology and tsunami warning for scientists of Maldives in collaboration with the IOC.



## Maldives Country Coordinator

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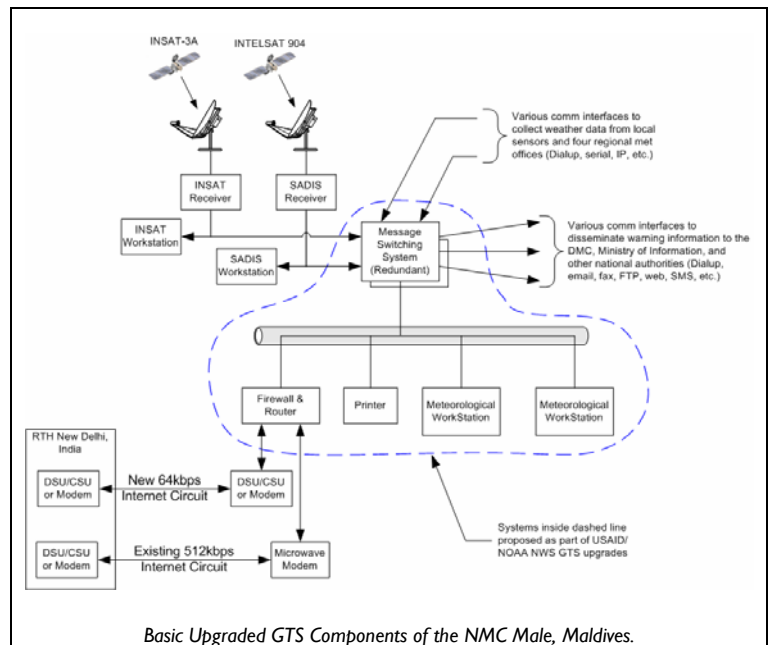
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## Building Capacity for Disaster Management and Warning Communications

- Implementation of RANET (RAdio and interNET) to support satellite broadcast, satellite point-to-point, SMS (mobile phone text messaging), and/or community FM radio to provide warning communications to coastal areas.



## Building Disaster Preparedness through Community Resilience

- Implementation of a Coastal Community Resilience (CCR) initiative to mobilize local preparedness champions and promote standard guidelines and training tools region-wide (including Maldives) for cities, villages, and the tourism industry.

## Other Regional Efforts Benefiting the Maldives

Through the IOC framework, the US IOTWS Program is also supporting:

- Interim warnings to the Indian Ocean from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) until the IOTWS is established.
- Development of the overall conceptual design of the IOTWS.
- Deployment of DART buoy stations.
- Development and dissemination of tsunami propagation computer models.
- Support for coastal inundation hazard and vulnerability modeling and mapping
- Establishment of an International Tsunami Training Institute (ITTI) through a US-Asia-UN partnership.

For more information please visit [www.us-iotws.gov](http://www.us-iotws.gov).

## About the US Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) Program

The US IOTWS Program is part of the international effort to develop tsunami warning system capabilities in the Indian Ocean following the December 2004 tsunami disaster. The US program adopts an "end-to-end" approach—addressing regional, national, and local aspects of a truly functional warning system—along with multiple other hazards that threaten communities in the region. In partnership with the international community, national governments, and other partners, the US program offers technology transfer, training, and information resources to strengthen the tsunami warning and preparedness capabilities of national and local stakeholders in the region. For more information please visit [www.us-iotws.gov](http://www.us-iotws.gov).